



South Dakota Transportation Alternatives

Transportation Alternatives (TA) is authorized by the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act) and is a set-aside of Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) program funding. TA includes the Safe Routes to School, Scenic Byways and Recreation Trails Programs. These project types should all be submitted under this TA call for Letters of Intent. These set-aside funds include all projects and activities that were previously eligible under the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), encompassing a variety of smaller-scale transportation projects such as pedestrian and bicycle facilities, recreational trails, safe routes to school projects, community improvements such as historical preservation and vegetation management, and environmental mitigation related to stormwater and habitat connectivity.

A few things to know about Transportation Alternatives:

- Eligible applicants include local governments, schools and school districts, tribal governments, natural resource and public lands agencies, regional transportation authorities, transit agencies or any other local or regional governmental agencies with responsibility for oversight of transportation or recreational trails;
- Funds may be used for preliminary and construction engineering, construction, right-of-way acquisition and non-infrastructure activities related to Safe Routes to School type projects;
- Funded projects require a 18.05% non-federal match;
- A variety of activities are eligible for Transportation Alternatives funding. Eligible projects must meet one or more of these activities and must relate to surface transportation.
 - Facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists and other non-motorized forms of transportation.
 - Safe routes for non-drivers.
 - Conversion and use of abandoned railroad corridors for trails.
 - Construction of turnouts, overlooks, and viewing areas.
 - Planning and implementation of community improvement activities.
 - Environmental mitigation.
 - Implementation of the Safe Routes to School Program.
 - Boulevards and other roadways largely in the right-of-way of former Interstate System routes or other divided highways.
- Projects are selected based on the recommendations of a Selection Committee comprised of local government representatives, law enforcement and education representatives, avid walkers and bikers, tribal representatives and others, with technical assistance from Department of Transportation and Federal Highway Administration representatives.

Letters of Intent for the FY2021 round of funding are due July 15, 2020. For more information on Transportation Alternatives contact Logan Gran at Logan.Gran@state.sd.us or 605.773.4912 or go to <https://dot.sd.gov/programs-services/programs/transportation-alternatives>.